Mr. President.—But a number of Hon'ble Members are agreed on the question that if a debtor has made some payment he must be given time.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan.—It is always uncertain whether an adjournment will be given if a certain amount is paid. Much is left to the discretion of the presiding officer. It is to remove that uncertainty that we want this Bill.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Sir, I press this motion to a division.

Motion was put and carried.

Mr. K. M Ibrahim.—I request the Chair to kindly suspend S. O. 32 and allow me to move it for consideration of the House.

Mr. President.—It would not be proper to give that.

Secretary to the Council.—The title of the Bill is "the Cochin Agriculturists' Temporary Relief Bill".

The House rose for lunch at 1 p. m. and re-assembled at 2-15 p. m. with the Deputy President (M. R. Ry. A. Sankara Menon. Avl., B A. & B. L.) in the Chair.

Amendment to S. O. No. 12.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty.—Sir, I move for leave to introduce the following amendment to the Standing Orders:—

"After section 12 and before section 13 insert the following:—

Section 12-A. A member desiring to give preference to a question or questions to be sent by him shall be entitled to make an asterisk mark against such question or questions and such 'starred' questions shall be answered during the particular session for which they are sent provided the number of such starred questions sent by a member for a particular session shall not exceed the number of days in that session ".

Explanation seems to be superfluous in this matter. It is common experience that when a number of questions are sent to the council and the whole number of questions cannot be answered during that particular session, a certain number will have to be postponed for a future session and naturally enough the less easy or the more irksome will be postponed for a future date. Eventually what happens is that that most irksome questions will be allowed to lapse. In order to avoid such a

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contingency, this amendment is intended. I beg leave of the house to introduce this.

Mr. V. K. Kutty.—I second it.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Sir, I have to oppose this motion as it stands. If what the Hon'ble Member intends is that in answering questions preference may be given to questions that are considered by the Member who sends the questions as important, such a course can as far as possible be adopted by the Government. There is no difficulty. But in the Amendment, it is stated that every question with an asterisk mark against it should be answered during the particular session for which they are sent provided the number of questions sent by a particular member does not exceed the number of days in that session. It may obviously be impossible to answer every one of the questions. There may be instances where answers to be collected may take a very long time.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Preference shall be given.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—There is no objection to that. If the Hon'ble Members wish that preference should be given to some out of the questions sent by them, Government will do their best to answer those questions first. The Amendment, in its present form, so far as the Government are aware, does not exist in any Assembly or Council, in India.

Deputy President.—Order, order. The motion is only for leave to introduce. I do not think there is scope for a speech at this stage under S. O. 65.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I only wanted to explain. The Government feel constrained to oppose this amendment. If it is only a question of giving preference to the questions marked, the Government have no objection whatsoever.

Motion was put and carried.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty.—Sir, I move that the amendment may be referred to a Select Committee consisting of, the Deputy President, (Chairman), the Law Member, Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar, Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan, Mr. P. Govinda Menon and the mover.

Motion was put and carried.

Deputy President.—The Select Committee is to report in two months.

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